

## CLAIMS

1. A method for screening a pro-apoptotic compound comprising a determination step of determining a compound enhancing interaction between p73 and IKK- $\alpha$  as a pro-apoptotic compound.

5           2. A method for screening a pro-apoptotic compound comprising:

          a culture step of culturing cells expressing p73 and IKK- $\alpha$  under respective conditions of being in the presence of and in the absence of a test compound;

10           an assay step of assaying the interactions between p73 and IKK- $\alpha$  in the respective cultured cells; and

          a determination step of determining the test compound as a pro-apoptotic compound, where the interaction between p73 and IKK- $\alpha$  in the cell cultured in the presence of the test compound is stronger than  
15           the interaction between p73 and IKK- $\alpha$  in the cell cultured in the absence of the test compound.

3. A method for screening an anti-apoptotic compound comprising a determination step of determining a compound inhibiting interaction between p73 and IKK- $\alpha$  as an anti-apoptotic compound.

20           4. A method for screening an anti-apoptotic compound comprising:

          a culture step of culturing cells expressing p73 and IKK- $\alpha$  under respective conditions of being in the presence of and in the absence of a test compound;

25           an assay step of assaying the interactions between p73 and IKK- $\alpha$  in the respective cultured cells; and

a determination step of determining the test compound as an anti-apoptotic compound, where the interaction between p73 and IKK- $\alpha$  in the cell cultured in the presence of the test compound is weaker than the interaction between p73 and IKK- $\alpha$  in the cell cultured in the absence of the test compound.

5           5. An apoptosis enhancer comprising a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24.

          6. An apoptosis enhancer comprising a nucleic acid encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:  
10       24.

          7. An apoptosis inhibitor comprising a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25.

          8. An apoptosis inhibitor comprising a nucleic acid encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:  
15       25.

          9. An apoptosis inhibitor comprising a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26.

          10. An apoptosis inhibitor comprising a nucleic acid encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:  
20       26.